

THE SIR PETER NICCOL RUSSELL BEQUEST.

The one outstanding feature of the endowments of the late Sir Peter Niccol Russell has been the fillip given the engineering student of the State towards what might aptly be termed his "Secondary Education."

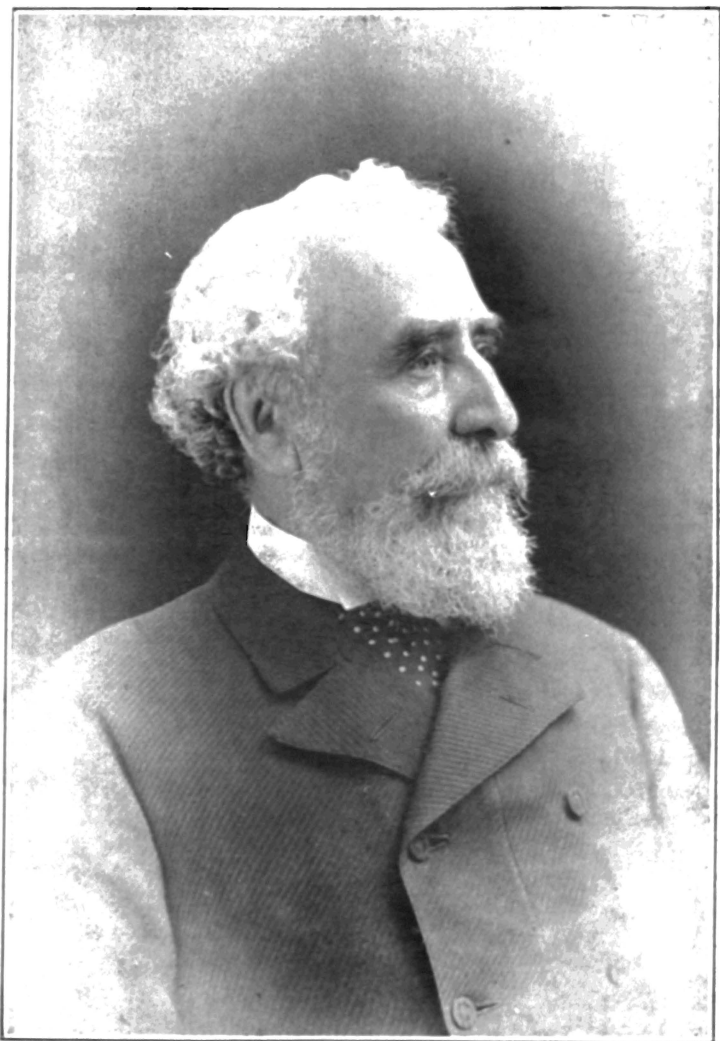
The Sir Peter Niccol Russell Scholarships offer a means of entry to the higher branches of engineering at the Sydney University, of which many a young engineer has readily availed himself, and we are proud to say that most of the successful students holding this coveted distinction have been affiliated with the Engineering Association of New South Wales.

After the death of the late Baronet the Engineering Association were apprised of his generosity by the receipt of a letter intimating that the sum of three thousand pounds had been placed at its disposal for the purpose of advancing the interests of engineering in the State of New South Wales. After much deliberation it was decided for the time being at least that the principal should not be operated upon, and to invest the money in such a way that sufficient revenue could be obtained to enlarge the library, particularly with regard to the text book section, which the Council consider should be suitably extended. Eventually the whole of the £3,000 was used to purchase Commonwealth inscribed stock, bearing interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This act was carefully debated by the Council before being finally carried out, it being considered at the time that the placing of this sum of money at the disposal of the Government fulfilled a dual purpose,

viz.: a patriotic effort from the Association, and also a means to obtain revenue for the library extension previously referred to, also for the binding of donated periodicals, and transactions of kindred institutions, and generally the maintenance and enlargement of this valuable asset of the Association.

To an institution like ours the gift of such a munificent sum of money was a means whereby much could be attempted that otherwise would have meant a heavy strain upon the scant funds generally available in a scientific body maintained by subscriptions only. The outbreak of the war and the deletion of our junior membership by enlistment, rather marred the value of the proposition at the time, but subsequent events have proved the wisdom of the Council in arriving at this decision, and the splendid assortment of reading matter available and handed over to the Institution of Engineers, Australia, upon the absorption of the Engineering Association, cannot be too lightly regarded. We feel sure that the trust imposed upon the new Institution to wisely expend the bequest as handed to them with our property, will not be in any way misplaced.

We feel honoured in being able to insert a life-like remembrance in these memoirs of our benefactor.



Sir P. N. RUSSELL